

"En Viaje"

From Valparaiso to Tahiti

1837

side of the preceding matters of the "Herring"
distance from - Brimfall - McLean - Adams
found well left 110 "che" and "chun"
Schooner "Sarah Ann"

On the morning of the 2nd we sighted
the island of "Sala Gomez" lying in direction
S.W. by W. but as but little was known of it, we
thought best to give it a pretty wide berth until
the morning should decide whether we were
to return our voyage sufficiently to venturing further
towards it. As the sun rose and the breeze blew
denoted no cessation of the Easterly wind which
was now blowing from a steady quarter we began
to lean down toward the island. As we neared
it we were surprised that it could have been
entirely the head of any one's Christian with
the appearance of island - as no sign of life
or vegetation was visible from our position
part of it. It consisted of two perpendicular
sides of rocks rising in an abrupt manner
from the sea and connected by a low isthmus
covered of a pretty substance which is scarcely
perceptible above the surface of the sea and over
which the water must break down to form an
cause the connection to us utterly unknown.
The vessel was surrounded with
sea birds of every description and plumage which
probably had their numerous abodes upon the
island and where could it have been practicable
to land we should probably be able to find
- many quantities of eggs or for our immediate
navigation had yet been ventured to be sufficient

land near the land. We glided along
the northern side of the island, and were
at last safe to anchor until reaching
the northern point when we pulled

up to the wind and again stood off for
directing our course toward Easter Island -
the breeze continued good for four or five days
and we swept through the water at a fair rate
As we approached Easter Island, the weather
which had continued hot and hell-seating around
a colder appearance and finally settled into chilly
raw temperature and we found it much more
comfortable to sleep under a cover of blankets
that we had been before without any. On
the morning of the 10th we discovered the Island bearing
upon us - and as soon as we discovered the position
must like to be inhabited we were down within
five or six miles of the shore. When suddenly we heard
a great noise of natives swimming but toward the
ship - we afterwards ascertained that they had no
boats - neither did they entertain any knowledge of
their utility, and it is a matter of considerable
curiosity how, or from what portion of the South Sea
they first originated - how they had proceeded through
thousands of miles of water to this desolate spot
and how they had lost the art of canoe building -
They were, however, excellent swimmers and
they surrounded our ship in swarms - gliding
through the water with the utmost ease
and facility by a single stroke of the arm. Some
of the women were carrying children upon their backs
who had probably attempted to swim out but had been
exhausted - we made signs to them not to approach the
sides of the ship - and if they wished any provisions
they must first bring in some fruits and

Cook & I were in some manner similar to that which
he saw that it formed 4 Tahitians upon the island
of Wakeon a distance of 300 leagues. The natives
said that about a dozen of them started in an open
canoe from Tahiti to visit one of the neighbor-
ing islands a violent storm arising they were
driven from their course until by an accretion of
hardship most of them perished by famine.
They reached the island of Wakeon

300 leagues distant

would stand off for them at the N.W. point of the
island until after noon - They immediately set off
for shore again, and by the time we had slowly
sailed around to the pt indicated - they were here
making out a big ladon with Cocoa nuts and pand
which were fastened with strips of bark to every dry pole
and which the Natives either tossed behind them
or pushed through the water before them - as they
approached we again cautioned them not to board
us too numerous - when 4 or 5 of the most prominent
looking ones came up the ship ladders and proceeded
to raid at the various commodities which they had
brought - They are a tall athletic race - good looking
in form and physical development but possessing broad
features - more especially the women who ~~had~~
the peculiar contour of the head - the high arch
of the cheek bones - the spindle shaped jaws - the slanting
chuck bones - the spade, extended jaws - the slanting
brow - and the grinning - tooth-like teeth looked
as if cannibalism was marked in every lineament
of their black-luster countenances - A few of them
were wearing of caps but not such as I have since
seen in the Society Islands and which consisted merely
of strips of bark stitched together in some manner
around the crown but the greater part were perfectly
naked - Some of them had small strips of cotton
tied around their waists which indicated that
they had had other visitors than us, while one
had a cord tied around his neck from which
dangled a small piece of shingle with the word
"California" cut with a knife from white
Indians that some California board vessel

touching here - This hair was long and black seeming
now to have been cut but pulled out taken given to a
troubled my length - The general appearance of the island
is rugged and mountainous. The low land is covered with
rich green verdure interspersed with Coca nut and
and other trees - The land extends fully from the
sea some 8 or 10 miles although at some places
much less. When it rises abruptly into jagged
mountains extending 12 or 15 above the level of the
sea - around to the western part of the island lies
a harbour and large anchorage called Cooks Bay
it is round and not extend by Capt Cook only who
was probably the first who ever visited
the island - The climate although somewhat colder
than in the Society group is nevertheless mild and
salubrious and I think possessed of all those natural
advantages which characterize the former latter and
which to whose luxuriant shores have enticed
so many to quit the colder regions of the North
and I presume that not many years will elapse
before Cooks Bay will be a flourishing whaling port
and Easter Island will offer as many allurement
to commercial enterprise as others of the Pacific
Islands have done. We found by observation that it
lies in Lat $27^{\circ}9'30''$ and Long $109^{\circ}26'20''$ -

Inoert Log

On the - we reached Pitcairn I
which was first thought inhabited by the mutineers
of the ill-fated "Bounty" and as I found many old
-timers particularly to this unfortunate affair
I will here give an account of it as I found
it from houses whose authenticity cannot

refuted 22. Insect Act | we reached the Island
which lies in Lat $25^{\circ}4'$ South Long $130^{\circ}20'$ west
about ten o'clock in the morning and while
the ship "stood off" we got out the boat and a party
of us set off toward land. We found it extremely
difficult to make the shore as a strong wind had been
blowing from the northward the preceding day and
a heavy sea beat upon the rocks and shores with
considerable fury. We however watched our opportunity
and rising upon a heavy swell, we were carried
easily over the rugged beach and as the way
retreated we sprang from the boat and were hauled
it high and dry upon land. We found we were
in front of the village consisting of about a dozen
huts and built from the remains of the Bounty
as there is no timber or building material upon
the Island. The village had been deserted since
the removal of the Islanders to Norfolk Island, but
we were received by some of the old people who had
been left behind to spend their days when they had
remained so long without intercourse with
the world. The Island rises like a mountain
from the sea to the height of 1000 to the highest
point called "look out ridge" it is named ~~the~~ having
been the spot upon which a sentinel was continually
kept watching for the approach of vessels so that
they could conceal the fleet of the Island being
uninhabited - and they affirm that ~~two~~ vessels
had landed a boat crew at different periods
and after obtaining some maize and potatoes

had left the island, supposing it to be uninhabited
so great was their fear of detection and so cautious
were their measures taken to conceal every vestige
of civilization - The island is under entire cultivation
every available spot being over-run with bread,
pear, onions and other classes of European veg-
etables ^{attained} within obtained from the South or often-
would purchased from some whaler. They are said
to have lived like one family until their in-
creasing numbers forced them to the necessity of part-
itioning off to each other equal portions of land
for separate cultivation - and even then this made
no better among themselves, but what one possessed
was shared among the others - they only traded
with ships which occasionally visited them - they
had no disputes - no quarrels - no judges or
courts of trial - they annually appointed a
sort of governor who presided over them only as an
admin and treating them as a father and a numerous
family. This unity of thought and purpose was only
since the second generation, for the ~~old~~ original
settlers were incessantly wrangling among
themselves - There having been but two - children
and sons who died by natural death; the
others all having been killed in the disputes among
themselves or by violence from their own hands -
A little way back from the village - on the side
of a hill lies the burial ground and many is the
tale told of the high price they paid for treasure
upon the souls of their countrymen. In the narrow
and wretchedness of their solitary lives the attempt
to make a native and intoxicating beverage

1. Their promiscuity is almost universal and the standard
bearing a peculiar tendency to Scriptural
Phariseology

from sweet potatoes and sugar cane by crushing
them together and allowing the pulpy mixture to
ferment in the heat of the sun - This liquid is offered
upon their mental systems as to cause them to be
utterly deranged and excitedly drunk of their meat-
-eating themselves from the summit of the world, where
they were instantly dashed in pieces - The Schismatic
did not is utterly extinct among them, and their Church
is marked with that peculiar intonation so characteristic
of the ancient, which the women there and those in
their conversation in the same manner as it is
found in the Bible - This is attributable to the fact
that their mode of living became suddenly very religious
subsequent to a vision which Adams is said to have
exhibited, and in which he was commanded to abstain
from their riotous mode of living, and hence-
-forth to instruct his descendants in the truths of the Bible
- consequently all books were destroyed but this one, and
the classic style of their conversation is probably derived
from this source - It is an inimitable translation
of providence that these people - the illegitimate
and villainous gang of Neutrines should ~~and~~
adopt from their own accord and adhere ever
since to this peculiar ceremony by means of which
they have lost the necessity of a single volume to prove
and which probably the whole world combined could
not change them in their regulations - they are quiet
and simple in their habits - the women are said to be
as chaste as the virgins - holding the strictest marriage
in the strictest veneration - When their numbers
increased so as to threaten them with scarcity of food

and water upon this small island they chartered
a vessel and went over to Tahiti where they were
treated kindly by the natives and foreign residents
who portioned to them a quantity of land for their
maintenance and supplied them with articles of clothing
but they became so shocked at the unbridled licen-
ciousness of both the Tahitians and foreigners that after
a short residence they chartered another vessel and were
conveyed back to their ^{own} island home. The old grand
of the County in chains around the beach - silent monuments
of the great crime which ~~has~~ ^{will} forever stain this
island with continuity and disgrace. Their house
as mentioned before, are built from the remains
of the "County" - and as if their only knowledge of building was
derived from that source - their inside are all built
after the style of a "chip" "tween decks" with trees
supporting the roofs and long berths running ar-
ound the sides of the rooms. None of the present
generation appear to possess any knowledge of events
which have preceded them - save that which they hear

They are familiar with most
of the leading points of European history - The
historical knowledge of the whole of the nineteenth
century collected and inscribed upon paper was
handed down for the benefit of their offspring.
The women spend the most of their time
in making little ivory ornaments and ladies work
boxes - the latter of which they construct very neatly
from the wood of the Cocoa nut tree, and inlay it
with pieces of pearl-ivory and whale bone with
taste and ingenuity.

The following day we sighted a small sandy reef which is put down upon different charts in all shapes and names - it is known to some as Onos Island - in others Maithas and others Boids is while in other charts two distinct positions are given to Boids and Maithas Islands - the former being some 50 miles further to the north than the latter but there is in fact but one island and it is extremely low and dangerous - being scarcely perceptible above the sea surface - On - we passed the Gambian Islands - which consist of a group of 5 or 6 islands surrounded by ~~low~~ reefs. Atolls which are full of coral patches containing innumerable beds of mother of pearl oyster.

The best entrance is through the break S. E. by S. 35, W. by S in Capt Bechey's chart - The island is high and presents a bluff rugged appearance rising directly from the sea level. Possessing little if any table land suitable for agricultural purposes. Heard Island is the largest of the group - stretching in two spiral or cone-like peaks to the distance 1800 feet above the level of the sea - The island is entirely under the influence of the French priests of the Paris order - and they may be said to have almost expelled the natives - They have established churches upon every island - a mission also erected and upwards of a 100 natives are already incarcerated within its walls - From Monday - Puff and all the women upon the island are invited to conceal themselves upon the opposite shore and it is seldom that they are ever

Position of the Lat 28° 12' South Long 134° 39' East

principles - The priests carry on a great trade
by engaging or forcing the natives to climb for them
then & carry any fruit upon the island of a few
ocoanuts and plantains. - The schooner
Jason Am. some months previous had sailed from
the Gambier to Tahiti and had not since been
heard from. - She had on board two children of
the natives of Tahiti and the Capt. who was
acquainted with her supposed it would be at least
a consolation to the bereaved mother to take a
cruise which would probably lead us in the same
direction as the schooner had taken and by calling in at
the present islands we might probably pick up some
of the survivors. - We chased our course for current
island which lies in Lat $23^{\circ}22'$ - Long $134^{\circ}30'$.

It is a low, sandy island - possessing little or
no vegetation and we found it to be totally
uninhabited, although it is said to have once
been but from scarcity of food and water the natives
were obliged to remove to one of the Gambier group.
It can be discovered scarcely 5 miles above the
water and should never be approached after
dark - or in blustering weather. - On the following
passed another small island - likewise uninhabited
and low - called Moore Island and 4 miles to
the - lies the Motilda Rocks or otherwise called
Omolua Island. - It is very low - but must be 2 or
3 miles in length, a broken coral reef sur-
rounds the island at 2 or 3 miles distance from
and over which the sea breaks very heavy. -
The only vegetation distinguishable upon it is the

the Fārā or Pandanus tree. It has an inland
agoon containing numerous beds of pearl Oyster, but
natives of other islands - who have been there say it
is now filled with sharks as to be dangerous diving
- after first discovering its lying in direction
N.W. we were gliding along the South side of it when
by degrees we discovered long extended rocks gradually
developing themselves ahead of us until we were finally
compelled to shift our course to avoid the reef.

We found it to lie in Lat. $21^{\circ}50'20''$ S and Long
 $138^{\circ}37'$ West - The wind continued to freshen
until it settled into quite a gale - and on the ~~main~~
we sighted the island of - it is a high. white
- rising abruptly from the surface of the sea to a
height of 5 or 6 hundred feet - we rounded along
the northern side of it and sufficiently near to distinguish
- with a great many trees and shrubs but no
- signs of habitation - we however learned that
two or three people had taken up their solitary
abodes upon it - it lies in

the wind blew fair, the vessel felt
the pressure of the rising breeze
And, swift as a thousand keels
She leaps to the carrying lead.

On the morning of the — at 3 o'clock the 2nd
mate called out from the Mast head "Land ho"
the welcome news ran like wild-fire throughout
the ship and in an incredible short space of time
nearly all the passengers were upon deck - their eyes
in fine "phoruzies rolling" and straining their optical
organs to their utmost degree in the direction of the said
land - but somehow or other the practical eye of
a mariner can distinguish objects through the hazy
mist of night when other eyes see nothing save
chaotic gloom - and although some either not
willing to acknowledge their inferiority of sight, or pre-
ferring more lively imaginations than the others were
continually making out land in the shape of dragons
- inverted wash-bowls - kary-cocks until finally
we connected it with an image which looked very
like a whale" a stop was put to further speculation
and we all retired to await a more fitting
opportunity to obtain a glimpse of the "Queen of the Pacific"
but the Mate had undoubtedly seen land, and the
morning fog began to thicken - the ship was ordered
to stand off until the coming of morning should
confirm or refute the Mate's statement. The lazy
flapping of the sails, with the golden rays of the
morning sun streaming through the sky light of
my cabin carried me to consciousness from a
short sleep and hastening on my clothes I soon
reached the deck where the lofty hills and sloping
plain of the "Gem of the South Seas" burst upon my
dawning gaze at a single glance - the sun
glaring across his livid ridges leaving the
ravines in darkness and shade. Looked as if

The art of some, mighty sculptors' chisel had ex-
-cavated, these diverging cones from the stupendous rocks
while strips of verdant carpet smothering the course
of purling brooks and sparkling streams winding
down the steep, and rugged declivities mingled
at the base with the incessant green sward of
the Table Land, which extends nearly the whole
of the way ^{from one to 8 miles in} ~~from one to 8 miles in~~
width - The Capt had now ascertained that
we were off Matavia Bay - where Capt Cook in
his first voyage around the world first anchored for
the first time in the Pacific in the year 13th of April
1769. Here also was the first missionary
settlement among the Islands (but now the
principal port and settlement in Pa-petee -

We had now rounded "Point Venus".
The morning breeze - was turning up the
white sands of the waves, and we were flying
along the coast at a rapid rate as we made
the passage we observed a ragged coral reef
extending along the island and which we
afterward learned - surrounded it at a
distance varying from 1 to 2 miles from
the shore at some points it extended above
the water level over which the waves broke
furiously but it was mostly submerged, but
not of sufficient depth to allow vessels
to sail over it - The breeze had now reached
the island - clearing the overhanging Tapered

one of our men to the helm and springing
upon the bow-sprit commenced giving his orders - Port!
Starboard! Port! Steady! every moment as we veered
to the right - then to the left to avoid the yawning
ragged reefs which lay strewn on every side at
the depth of from 3 to 10 or 12 feet - while others
peered above the surface of the water over
which the "Tara diving sands of the breakers" beat

and roared with fury. We entered by what is called the
"Tara passage" which is considered the best entrance
to the Harb'or but we found it frightfully intricate -
these ledges of coral which are strewn 2 or 3 feet
are placed at old cannon in upright positions to mark
the locality of the reefs at nightfall - however the
passage is seldom attempted so late now - As we
glided along the beach I could not help but
marvel how quiet and sleepy everything appeared
the low - bamboo houses stuck here and there
underneath the orange and tara groves - The
drooping foliage stealing down to the very water's
edge, while groups of natives lay, reposing in the
shade appearing to care for nothing more of
earth to be near their cups of happiness full -
then indeed in scriptural saying that "an ear
of corn lying by the threshing sower" did not
apply - for did they but mark they need but to raise
their hands to pluck the bread fruit which seemed
to bend the trees with ~~their~~ its weight, while the very
air was perfumed with the odors of choice and de-
licious fruits - did they but thirst - every inlet
and gully was filled with sparkling champagne

waters - We rounded the point at the NE extremity of the town and in a few minutes cast anchor in the Harbor of Papeete - We were greeted by the officials - but little ceremony gone through before we were requested with our permits to land - The town from the Harbor presents a singular and peculiarly picturesque appearance - The houses are nearly all upon the beach and so interspersed with trees that it is impossible to see any more of the place than what is mounted upon the first street although the town stretches nearly a mile back - but presenting throughout, that quiet, soft appearance - the same gentle, summer-like loveliness of shaded walks and leafy groves - the lanes and by-paths overhung with long green branches while the ground was covered with a thick growth of tropical ~~growth~~ ^{plants} - ~~thence~~ ^{thence} which winds ~~its~~ ^{its} path ~~is~~ ^{is} that similar to that of the N^o Indian -

Tahiti is so called from being a contraction of the original Native name Otahiti - it consists of two islands connected by an isthmus the distance between the two extremities being about 45 miles and is surrounded by a belt of coral reefs, in some 23 miles in distance from the shore - that part of the island known as Pt Venus is in Lat $17^{\circ}29'17''$ Long $149^{\circ}35'26''$ while Pt Oboore is in Lat $17^{\circ}05'5''$ Long $149^{\circ}12'$ - The land is high and mountainous rising at the center to the distance of 9000 feet and diverging abruptly into innumerable valleys and sloping meadows - The name of

wild and romantic and picturesque landscape cannot be surpassed in the world - Beautiful and sparkling springs of water burst from rough and rocky mountain sides and flow in lovely rivulets, falling cascades - dashing down the rugged steep - forming pools and fountains of limpid - crystal water and ^{the water does not fall from rocks} after falling and adding onward to the low-lands - The soil is exceedingly fertile - The Orange and Guava trees having been brought there from other parts - The pineapple was first planted in - by Mr Banks one of the companions of Cook in his first voyage of discovery - was brought from Rio de Janeiro - The latter was brought from Norfolk Island by a Missionary and has increased so well to the island climate that they are gradually spreading their seeds over every portion of ground in the island - No bird or animal is its inward march ^{some} the broad front and other valuable trees have been utterly ruined by its ~~own~~ prolific growth - The Natives of Tahiti a tall athletic race - well proportioned in figure - easy and graceful in their appearance - The women are exceedingly pleasing in feature - tall and handsomely made - straight and robust in demeanor and when not standing by the men appear to be taller by several inches, this however is caused by their legs which consist of a long firm & strong - gathered at the neck and allowed to drop to the feet without being confined at the waist - They wear no shoe and their hair is permitted to grow over the shoulders loose and is confined only at the forehead by a wreath or sort of crown of flowers resembling red clover blossoms and

They are a mild, timid, race not prone
to cunning or deception: - perfectly harmless
and infinitely more faithful and trust-
worthy than the natives of South America.
The native native is more prompt and effi-
cient in his exercise of their duties than the
French Guianese. The former is governed by a
principal and a sense of right - the latter by
custom and military discipline although phlegm-
atic and indifferent to punishment. They are never
opposed kind courteous and affectionate to each
other - making no difference to their superior -
and the superior exhibiting no ostentatious ceremony
over the lower class. They are without bound
together in one tie of affection and governed by
strong and ardent attachment. They are never
actuated by selfish or covetous desires - alike would
they share their last penny or morsel with each
other and their families.

- It is not that they are entirely deficient in talent, but
they possess no capacity to collect information.
□ Their indolence is a constitutional and hereditary
disease, and although hunger is totally insufficient
to disengage them from their torpor is the only
means of successfully arousing it.

intermingled with brilliant strings of golden eye
stream - The dress of the men consists in a long
strip of cloth called a "pario" and which is girthed
around the loins - dropping to the knees. An
upper dress of similar texture resembling a
broad frock but more fantastically made and
worn outside the "pario" - a straw hat and a
native cigar and you have a picture of a
gentleman complete. They are as I said a well-
made formed - sturdy race - healthy and of course
clean in their persons - They are constantly bathing
or washing themselves in their clothes - they constantly
anoint their bodies with some perfumed liquid which
does not stifle the odoriferous exhalations with a mass of
unsightly scum but by a pleasing - soothing
odor in their intelligence above the inferiority
of the negro. They are too indolent to acquire any
kind of education and all the order which
they have not received amongst them. This is
found in most colonies. As in going to church -
they appear to have no particular refinement in
their performance as one of the boys in the school
at - they are as soon as possible left as to
the retention for one moment of a religious
or feeling - they are as distant from it as thin
from ordinary sphere is far placed from the realm
of heaven - They attend church for the pleasure
of standing at full length upon the pious seats
and seeing beneath an ample roof from the
searching rays of the sun - but such a feeling
as true religious sentiment is never experienced

Δ The system of education which the missionaries Order
have employed ^{in the Pacific} has been wrought
with passion and strife, it has been the battle ground of
rival denominations. because it is sectarian in principle
each striving to obtain an abundance and supremacy
the wildest means to gather to its corrupt standard
the greater number of proselytes and followers.
The system has incultated into the natives a heart of
distrust and suspicion for while warring between
two main rival factions; each receiving its official missions
from Heaven - each firmly clinging to its standard
of the Bible to substantiate its maxims and all having
the same object of salvation in view. While all
are continually for general love and sympathy
they become in different or hostile clings to their
ancient idols and superstitions. It is nevertheless
true that Catholics by adopting a quiet and more
diplomatic mode of religious training have secured
more substantial interest than those of other sects
which has been acquired by adopting the great object
making a people happy that they might otherwise
be come just and virtuous which is much stronger
philosophy than the course of the prohibition.

Δ A great many natives have they been
conversion for its propagators - This is attributable
more to the missionaries themselves than the
ignorant beings ~~which~~ to whom they are sent to
instruct in the truths of Christianity - The natives
are bred in the midst of darkness and just bet the M^s
who have had the advantage of the precepts of his
and model precepts instincts and examples, ~~but~~ ^{rather} ~~than~~
rather strengthen by participation than weaken by
reproof and censure their errors held by God and
may the most vile and procreation of the most evil
in the catalogue of sins -- This is no idle position
remark but one generally known and believed in all
who have visited the islands of the South Pacific.
And it is yet to be ascertained whether all the
~~the~~ ^{the} perishing our gentle hands have dropped of
the necessity of ~~goodness~~ ^{goodness} charity. The contributions
of for the support of missions & furnishing the main
wildland Savages with a Bible, as human words and
a well planned shirt, will eventually bring upon
our heads more blessings than curses -

Mr Sweet says I have seen conversion to
Christianity in certain instances instead of improving
the native character. The missionaries have said
indeed upon their other bad qualities, baffle
of the deepest dye. I speak disparagingly
I say that I conscientiously believe the moral
character of the natives has not been improved
by missionary intercourse - It is true that in
exposure with them - the M^s have instilled
virtues of the power and procreation of man

Δ 01
Nations, by thus means taming them finally and
rendering them more benignant to visitors and less
dangerous to ship wrecked mariners, but fear and
not religious constraint is the governing principle.
I do not mention names nor will I quote even
authentic anecdotes to support my assertions, but
it is right that the world should know, and that
the zealous supporters of missionary exertion should
be made acquainted with the fact that there
have been as many wolves as sheep heads in the
field and that many have come to the marriage
without being provided with a wedding garment.

Our particular illustration of this observation
which the natives entertain for religious services and which
is tacitly asserted to be the M^r. I will relate
while passing a church door upon the Sabbath.
I was surprised to hear a commingling of low voices
to which the preacher, although at the time delivering
his discourse did not appear to notice. Supposing it
was the custom of ~~the natives~~ ^{the natives} the service after the first
I was passing and when a quick sharp note
from within again drew my attention - I stepped
to one of the side doors which from the storm
had not been left open. When to my horror I saw sev-
eral lusty natives lying flat upon their faces
along the seats their heads turned toward each
other in groups and their hands evoked in the
air over their heads - ~~playing~~ ^{playing} with packs of old
greasy cards in their hands, playing for money
and their wrangling and dispute which was in a
low tone ~~was~~ for the purpose of not interrupting the
preacher and thus it was while I stood there

and probably the expectation which had arrested
my attention was something like "d - a - Bore play types"
Indeed the tone somewhat such like it and the
players ~~was~~ all looked as if they were capable of
both sacrilege and blasphemy even in the house
of God -

Laws are organized to attempt the suppression
of prostitution but the crime is merely marketable and
in case of detection in the act, the parties are subjected
to pay a fine to the injured husband of the woman or
nearest relative - This is much winked at, and the
crime is enacted a second time ~~but~~ while the penalty
remains it cannot be a little more necessary -

The nation has no feeling of delicacy
in domestic affairs and the blush of shame never
tinges their cheeks while bartering the chastity of their
sisters and even wives which is a frequent occur-
rence among them - They however care nothing for
morality for the sole pleasure of hoarding it up
and yet were they too possess fortunes it would
hardly remain in their hands an entire day -
could they obtain the means of enhancing their
comfort or pleasure or that of their friends
by spending it - in this they show themselves to be
true philosophers of the world and enjoy more
pleasures than the thousands who have their
eyes fixed to their shoes for the purpose of self-gone
and pecuniary embroilment - The women are the great
power at all works doing the principal work about
the house - gathering the fruit - fishing etc the latter
is performed by them in a manly manner - A
net of low water extending over a bed of coral
some 4 or 5 miles long is used for the purpose of catching

at night a small fish which is exceedingly
sensitive to the taste - They collect upon the shallow
shoal in the night fall in numerous schools - the
women then start from the beach with a long
interminable string of evanescent grass, about a foot
in height when lying flat - each pulling the grass
through the water until outside edge of the net
is reached when it is dropped but the ~~net~~ ^{bottom} and
while some follow in the lead to keep the net
in the water others grasp hold of ropes attached
to each end and run for the shore and draw
it well in when they all dive into the space of
water enclosed within the semi-circle and make
prisoners of the fish till each being entitled to all
they can grab - Curious and comical are the
movements displayed as one larger fish than
usual soon makes his appearance - whom all
eager to secure him first they rush headlong ^{into}
~~the water~~ - ~~second~~ and struggle until utterly
exhausted they give up the contest - a great many of
these fishermen and women are consequently
tattered although this custom is becoming extinct
nevertheless obtained an opportunity of seeing
the operation - the implement used in catching
made of tortoise shell, of different dimensions
and set in strong handles and resembling small
saws, with short serrated teeth cut in the edge
as sharp as needles - having rubbed down the net of
a peculiar tree that has been previously burnt to
a coal - they mix it with the juice of a herb and
dilute it with water or evanescent milk - They
then dip the points of the teeth in the liquid

4. 2. *Gomphocarpus*
from water flag

and laying it upon the part of the body to be
labeled - gently rub it with a small piece until
the points are indented in the flesh sufficiently
to draw the blood slightly, and then by rubbing
or changing the position of the instrument they trace
at the same time as they fix the impression of
the figure intended to be wrought - The sides of
some of them are entirely covered with grotesque figures
and characters, wrought in in fantastic colors
and running in zig-zag lines up and down and across
around their legs - arms and bodies - These customs
in the gradual introduction of European customs, have been
dropped and most of the native manufactures
have been superseded by that of other countries it is thus
with the cloth or covering formerly worn by the
natives but which has gradually fallen into disuse.
called "Cappa" it is manufactured in the following
manner - the material employed is from the bark
from either the bread fruit tree or the "Ora" similar
to the paper mulberry - They separate the inside bark
from the outer in narrow strips - using only
the inside and placing it in water it is left to
soak until it is sufficiently saturated to assume
the appearance of pulpy matter when it is laid
upon a log or block of wood manufactured for
the purpose - with a smooth even surface and
hollowed or grooved out underneath to give
it a spring - They then take mallets of hard
wood - furnished with short, stunted pitched teeth
and grooved sides to correspond with the block upon
which the bark is beaten each side being more
compact or dense in grooves and communicating with

the constant tick they beat upon the bark gradually decreases in in bulk and increases on the succum edges of the ^{the} mallets. The women are also employed in this - none dozen of them and they have chants while singing in chorus - accompanying themselves by the strokes of the mallets, one occasionally breaking off from the rest and dancing a wild-extravaganza to the eyes of the others - The cloth thus manufactured was a peculiar form and even texture it will bear washing and with care lasts some several years - They generally ornament their tapers with odd figures and drawn on the front back and around the border and stain with the berry of a tree which forms a deep dye similar to Chinese Vermilion - One of the chief articles of food ~~which~~ which the natives make use of is bread but it is seldom possible to obtain it in its proper mode of cooking and it was not until I had visited the houses of the natives that I obtained it properly cooked - The form which is of the size of a man's head is selected from the tree and laid upon a bed of coals and covered with hot embers - the husk cracks to the nut until the delicious liquid from the kernel is wholly exposed when a knife is run through to the very top and by its odor is ascertained to what degree it is cooked - when it is taken from the fire and while yet hot the outer covering is stripped off when the kernel immediately expands and cracks burst open, as white and light as the best loaf of bread - it has a pleasing flavor to the taste and forms as much if not more nutriment than wheat bread

The island is under the protectorate, flag of France but they possess a home government of their own which however is but secondary as the whole of the executive power is vested in the hands of the French Governor^{IV} possessing the title of Queen of the Island but she never interferes with the government or its officers in the framing or execution of such laws as they seem fit to impose upon her. She is however usually represented by 7 Supreme Judges who consist of her principal chiefs - The head one generally retaining the title of Regent in case of his absence to other islands - They have a native court to try single ~~particular~~ cases as I come within the jurisdiction of native courts but all criminal offences are brought before the French Magistrate - At 12th clock in the morning a gun is fired accompanied by a volley of drum to warn all natives within the house - At 2 o'clock a second gun is fired, after which if any natives - sailors, or suspicious characters are caught loitering about the streets, they are immediately marched off to the work-house - There to remain until morning and then to be released only upon paying 2.00 or by completing a certain amount of labor upon the roads or other public works - All the dikes, ditches - Earth-works etc are constructed by them unable to pay their fines and it may be said that coerced labor supplied by drunks and dissipation amounts to more in the aggregate than that produced by other means - This system however - so little the ~~benefit~~ ^{benefit} of older times does not apply to modern times

foreign residents, or people having the appearance of
high respectability, but only to Soafoa and Natives
~~the women also who are in company or take~~
~~part of a foreigner's~~ It however applies to women
and, if any are caught ~~outside~~ ^{outside} the precincts of
their own domesticity, they are most easily dragged
off by the Gendarmes unless they are in the company
of foreigners - ~~they are surprised upon one~~

They are however permitted to congregate
without the suburbs of the town where, after sunset
- all they can be found assembled beneath the coco
nut and orange groves - seated in circles, each
chewing a long stick of sugar cane, telling stories
and occasionally breaking out in some slow -
plaintive chant - in which they all join in
opposite taste - many of them possess well -
timed voices and their singing is replete with music
- a harmony - there is a peculiar wildness of
expression in their improper melodies which strike
the ear of a foreigner with a heavier - like impres-
sion - Their singing can be compared to nothing
I have ever heard - so free is it from discord and
so low, and modulated in cadence - - The nation
dwellings are constructed without any great ~~elaboration~~
~~to~~ architectural design, but they are nevertheless
spacious and as nearly adapted to the
tropical climate as it would be possible to imagine
- Their sides are formed of upright - poles of Bamboo
- two of the white pine species - about 6 feet high
and between each is left sufficient space to
thrust over any, at this time, is a circular band
which holds them to the poles and

on many from the point on other poles, converging
at the center, and covered with a piece of
matting or thatch, made from the leaf of the
pandanus - it is first woven together by vines
and afterward laid out over the other upon
the soil early round or layers placed in
mesh above the other so that the although heavy
are especially shaggy appearance the inside is
very moist and lastful - the whole at the
summit or ridge pole is capped by a woven
net of a peculiar very strong stuff that it is impossible
for a drop of rain to penetrate through the roof

I had formerly entertained the belief
that the poetical saying that "pearls are the crystallized
tears of the Oyster" was entirely fabulous but from personal
experience added to the authority of several practical
oyster diggers I have now convinced that such is
the fact or at least that the pearls are produced from
some solid matter formed by the oyster, or the
oyster, but whether it assumes the shape of a
pearl immediately previous to its death or whether it
has been some time arriving at that point of
crystallization is a matter of doubt; it is however
certain that pearls are found in healthy
living shells - all in which they are found
showing a strong, complete appearance at, or
near the hinge of the shell, and the more aged
the appearance, the more perfect is the probability of
finding valuable pearls - many of the healthy
oysters contain a species of fish, a tiny, globular
nature which is said to effect the pearl.

The pearls of the South Sea are inferior in size to those found in the Arabian Sea. The largest ever found in the former not weighing upwards of 20 carats while Boettger mentions one which was in the possession of the Emperor Rudolph which weighed upwards of 30 carats called La Perle and having the shape of a pear; while Tavernier speaks of one in the hands of the Shah of Persia in 1623 and which must be in existence yet which was of the size of a pigeon egg and which was purchased of its finder an Arab for the sum of \$552,000. In Bombay and Madras pearls are valued by two different weights. The real and the nominal. By the former they are weighed and valued, by the latter, sold. In the South Sea Islands the pearls are of various shades varying from the white water to the yellow, and are valued according to their brilliancy and shape. Expanding every protruding rock and sunken coral probing into great cracks and crevices, while scrambling along the ragged bottom - choosing those crevices most likely to contain shells and grasping them lay out their slender strength to detach it from the firm hold of the rock -

formed and since it is that the disease is not permitted to generate in the oysters and strong corals - The pearl is found at the naval or, point where the water is attracted to the shell, although, pearls of inferior value are found adhering to the inside of the oyster shell. The bulk of the Pearl Oyster is found in all depths of water, although, adhere to the sparkling rough and roots of coral and are frequently prominent, but by long strands of marine vegetable matter as to render it impossible to detach them from the rock. The great force which the nature employs to amount of physical exertion required to give with the length of time which the respiratory organs are incessantly suspended - the chief of the dim distance - to detach the shell and found in the surface with the pressure is incredible to believe. At two or three strokes of their arms they shoot to a depth of 40 feet and after staying underneath the water for the space of 2 or 3 minutes, again ascend to the surface puffing and blowing like a school of boys. The fish quickly dies to such a depth that when ascending the surface blood streams from their eyes and nose - but it is seldom they attempt such deep diving - for let the pearls be in fact they frequently assert that not, they are found - but apparently occurs is they expect - aspirations that they encounter sharks and other voracious but obtain a few minutes of peace. Perhaps they are generally for pearl - and then with the aid of their hands they generally in the the large monster at this in the sea.

4 The fast matter of Coral in constant process of formation by the ceaseless working of the zoophite an insect, remarkable for the amount of the coral secretion ^{which it} deposits in the course of its life is incredible - immense continents are being formed throughout the Pacific by its incessant application to sub-marine architecture - and islands and reefs are perceptibly rising ^{from} ^{the} ^{coral} ^{branches} ^{above} the surface of the deep - but could it be permitted to man to explore these atomical, aquatic realms, I doubt not but that the vast formations which we call Earth would be ~~lost~~ ^{replaced} ^{by} ^{antic} ^{cap} ^{columns} capping the high huge, colossal pillars of dazzling crystalline coral - then we would see immense fields and rolling mountains of this snow material, whose mimic Earth and crumbling edifices would rise ^{every} ^{where} in all directions like the Champollion's stately edifices of Egypt to have been designed and constructed by man 50 feet high - Is it would we find the boundless series of antediluvian celebrity - intermingled with those of ^{my} ^{own} ^{times} ^{of} ^{the} ^{past} ^{century} - rising in silence and mystery - surrounded by solemn monuments from the chrysalis quarries of the waves.

5 The present political position of Tahiti was brought about by one of those unforeseen accidents upon the transpiration of which frequently depends so much of interest to nations. In the year - some Catholic priests arrived at the island from France and enlisted the lists with the propagation of their doctrines for who were already disseminating their thousand and one different creeds throughout the society and Georgian islands - but the new comers were treated with considerable distrust by the natives. It was generally believed, and that belief was changed by the assertion of certain French missionaries that the Catholic faith was more liberal in its doctrine, and more calculated to place restrictions upon their actions than that professed by other denominations - Their numbers fell into such proportion that they were first formally invited and afterwards forcibly expelled from the island by Queen Pōhā - Capt Du Petit Thouars arriving soon after their occurrence compelled the Queen to pay him 200,000 dollars and to make certain concessions for the injuries done to the French priests - with a permit for the re-establishment of their religious beings - Their concessions being tacitly or expulsiory measures, a greater feeling of animosity and affection could be expected to exist between the natives and French and upon every occasion which presented itself a growing feeling of animosity was displayed between them - when one day a gang of drunken sailors, having caught the female dog of the Queen determined to witness

a fight and having showed an antagonism even
to common opposition when a lot of sturdy
natives made a charge upon the sailors -
rescued the innocent families which was the
cause of the disturbance of the grain and placed
the disturbance in stocks. - The Captain hearing of
the situation of his men formed the necessities of
the crew and made a charge upon the temporary
aid but they were all overpowered and placed
in the prisons of their own prisoners. - Capt. Thayer
the admiral appeared off the coast and ordered
the queen to place herself under the protection of France
saying it was not instantly complied with he
understood the intention to attack. - The Queen
complained, addressing a letter to that effect to
Sen. Phillips. - They by unconsciously signing and
authorizing without a prospect of the English
jurisdiction. - Person little skilled in the political
intrigues of the world saw not that this act would be
looked upon as a treaty violation upon her part which
she supposed that by applying to the nation her
rights would be upheld like the sovereigns of other
nations - firm in this belief she appealed to
the first foreign power which came to the island
which the frigate Vendictive - Commodore Nicolas
and by her entreaties he interested himself in her
welfare and refused to acknowledge the pro-
tection of France until he had received the
decision of his own government but as soon as it was
ascertained that the queen had delivered a doc-
ument securing the protection of France, the action
of England was at an end and
depriving her of the protection of the British

Bentley and his women go, many national idols
to be gratified before they think of the interest of others.
They are too material - and possess too little of
the spiritual character which merchants are too much of the
matter-of-fact. This clergy too sectarian and
confined by ideas of self-enclosedness. They were
slow religious to come in contact or oppose their
commercial interests while France shows out
her religion in vigorous measures near thinking
of the interest at stake - and takes a pride in the
preservation and enactment of the scriptural rites
of her ~~Catholic~~ Church. Where England fought
and beat China ^{in 1840} ^{for opium}. Since she contracted
herself with a treaty which secured the interests of
her mercantile interests. Immediately afterwards
France came with warlike preparations and
requied and obtained a religious treaty which
secured to foreign Christians a liberty of conscience
and a right to worship their own deities. This
indeed was a higher and nobler stroke.

the air-colour was printed on the little islet of
Motuiti which lies in the mouth of the harbour and
the whole of the Georgian and Society islands
declared in the possession of John Phillips - It is now
however to be supposed that an island possessing the
natural advantages of Tahiti would long remain an
independent state; and it probably is all for
the best that the French have obtained the supremacy
or had the island been filled with an influx
of British, Americans and other Europeans, doubt
less much of so little restraint as now would be
laid on the natives or if they would be permitted
interference of this sort and freedom
their customs as they now are - They might
possibly increase trade to a great extent and
even organize it into a flourishing commercial
state, but would that poor determined queen suffer
the same amount of life-anxiety which contributes
the happiness of so many of her subjects?
At the night of the 10th of the French detachment in

made sentinels but were captured and Mr Pritchard
taken prisoner. The natives retreated to the mountains
and thenceforth hostilities were opened - All foreign
residents were put under Martial law and in such
a skirmish took place in which several were killed
on both sides, among which was the Reverend Mr Mearns
the missionary stationed at Pt Vend. The French
army and otherwise destroyed all the buildings and
property of the natives, whose forces were concentrated
near Port Venus where they were making daily prepara-
tions for an vigorous attack upon the French
for the purpose of expelling them from the Island -

The natives dug trenches and threw up earth
works to protect them from the powerful guns of
the fleet but from an utter ignorance of the
mode of warfare practiced by other nations, left
exposed a hill which commanded the whole
their position and from which the ~~own~~ heavy
artillery of the French ^{created} terrible havoc
in their ranks. They however ^{undaunted} ^{undamaged} received the fire
with ^{undaunted} and firm and unflinching
energy, until called to madness by the incessant
destruction of the small arms ^{created} they charged from
the position upon the attacking force and forcing
on them their muskets and swords put to
flight the whole company. They knew not
however in what manner to follow up their
victory and for the want of an experienced
commander - their impetuosity overpowered
their good judgment. They soon found that they
had fallen into the very jaws of the
French frigate lying in the harbor and which

and up a vigorous fire into the native ranks
which soon caused them to make a hurried retreat
but as they reached the ~~one~~ trenches which was to
afford them ample shelter they found the hills which
they wanted for ^{their} position in the possession of a
strong party of the enemy which at once
commenced to sweep all within the range of
the field piece - The ranks of the natives were
at once broken and disorganized and the
survivors retreated to the bush - The war con-
tinued for a long time - the natives at one time
attacking and taking prisoners and the French
retaliating and retaking it until it resolved
itself into a drawn game of "dassah" until the ports
all the islands were declared in blockade and
the mutually disputed with the war an
arrangement was arrived at by which the
French were to henceforth control the culture of
the island and the Queen was to receive an annual
pension of - which was to be a bond of
future peace - The international flag was
saluted by the US frigate Perry and other foreign
men-of-war stationed around the port
and since no disturbances have threatened the
French hegemony although the government of
France has ^{changed} from a kingdom to a republic and
made to all eyes during the period which that
power has held the reins of the Dictatorship of Tahiti
The French do not ~~seem~~ interfere with the
customs and actions of the natives and instead of
to remodel them to the manner of European nations
they rather fall into the indolent habits of the island

money is the most beautiful of the Georgian or Sack
lands. The scenery is wild and romantic, numerous
mountains, sitting at the top into spires - obelisks
crumbling pinnacles etc and overhanging pyramids.
It is filled with beautiful quiet valleys and
glades of trout, soft secluded retreats.
In one of these is the house of the minister.
The valley is called Papetoai and is enclosed
by lofty abrupt cliffs covered with snow and
ice.

One of the best resorts is the great object of making
men happy that they might afterwards become
rich, which is certainly much a strange phrase
than the reverse of the proposition.

1857

Environ

Baker

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